

ALLEN-SCOTT REPORT

CPYRGHT

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Outcome of Power Struggle Over Appointment Of White House Aide Depends on Bobby's Plans

WASHINGTON — A three-way power struggle is raging within the White House staff over personnel appointments and domestic policy recommendations.

This politically explosive dispute, which only President Johnson can decide, is coming to a head over the proposed appointment of Wilson D. McCarthy, congressional relations officer of the Peace Corps, to the White House staff.

The 34-year-old McCarthy, known as a "Bobby Kennedy man" within administration circles, is being strongly pushed for the White House post by presidential aides Bill Moyers, former deputy director of the Peace Corps, and J. J. Valenti, special consultant to the President.

These two presidential advisers are stressing that McCarthy is needed in the White House to improve the administration's liaison with Congress to pass the controversial medicare and anti-poverty programs.

A close friend of Moyers when both worked in the Peace Corps, McCarthy is being urged by the former as the one person who could serve as a communication link between President Johnson and Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy.

Opposing McCarthy's selection are veteran Johnson aides Walter Jenkins, special presidential assistant, and Clifton Carter, the White House's top political adviser.

They frankly argue that McCarthy, a pre-convention supporter of the late President Kennedy, is a "Kennedy rather than a Johnson man," and that his political loyalties in any showdown with the Attorney General would not be to the President, but to Kennedy.

Until the attorney general spells out more clearly his future political intentions, neither Carter nor Jenkins feels the President should strengthen the Kennedy influence within the inner White House circle by adding McCarthy to the staff.

THE THIRD FORCE

The third group of White House aides, known as the "Kennedy holdovers" and headed by special presidential assistant Kenneth O'Donnell, is supporting McCarthy's appointment but staying in the background in the struggle between the two Johnson groups.

The "Kennedy holdovers" who supported the late President in his 1960 bid for the Democratic nomination, include Lawrence O'Brien, special legislative assistant to the President; Myer Feldman, special counsel; Lee C. White, deputy special counsel; and McGeorge Bundy, special assistant on security affairs.

This group, which welcomes McCarthy as one of their own, is encouraging his appointment by playing up his work with Congress while in the Peace Corps and his close association with Peace Corps Director Sargent Shriver Jr., now coordinator of the President's anti-poverty program.

In their backstage discussions, the "Kennedy holdovers" are privately telling supporters in Congress that McCarthy's selection will strengthen their hand in influencing Johnson to increase his \$300 million request for funds to launch the anti-poverty program.

The two Johnson groups, although sharply split over McCarthy, are firmly united in limiting this new domestic venture to "pilot projects" until a determination can be made as to which approach should be used in allocating federal funds.

White House insiders say the President is delaying his decision until he can personally determine whether Atty. Gen. Kennedy has any unannounced political plans for 1964.

THE WHITEWASH

A major effort is being made by a group of State Department and Central Intelligence Agency authorities to whitewash, cover up and ridicule the disclosures made by Polish defector Colonel Michael Goleniewski, since they involve treason in both agencies. It is a well-organized campaign, with CIA officials making personal contact with members of Congress and newsmen, and telling them Goleniewski is under heavy nervous tension. Rep. Michael Feighan, D-O., one of the few members of Congress who have talked to Goleniewski, reports that the Polish defector is in good health and mind, although worried that the Russians may try to kill him. A high-ranking KGB intelligence officer in Poland, Goleniewski has a "thank-you" note from former CIA Director Allen Dulles, who used considerable information supplied by the defector in his book "The Craft of Intelligence." . . . Latest information being "leaked" to Washington columnists by CIA officials involves the Russians' appraisal of President Johnson. It goes like this: "Top Soviet officials (no names) say they do not plan to arrive at any firm judgments on the nature and intentions of President Johnson until after the American elections. The Soviets say Mr. Johnson's public pronouncements are now pointed entirely at the election and that a clear picture of him cannot be secured now." . . . In extending Gen. Curtis LeMay's tenure as Air Force Chief of Staff until the end of the year, President Johnson turned down a recommendation by Defense Secretary Robert McNamara to replace the tough, frank-speaking General. LeMay is one of the few top military officers in the Pentagon not afraid to speak out publicly in opposing McNamara's defense decisions . . . Early readers of this column were not startled by the late Gen. Douglas MacArthur's reported appraisal of Gen. Matthew Ridgway ("way at the bottom, a chameleon"). In 1952 this column published inside details of how MacArthur tried to block Gen. Ridgway's fourth star during the Korean war. When the story was published, then-President Truman ordered a full-scale FBI investigation of how the information was obtained. According to an aide of Gen. Omar Bradley, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the investigation was concluded with a report stating: "source unknown."